

'Gunners' recognize heroes past and present



Lt. Col. William S. Rabena, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery commander, attached the "Luxembourg" Battle streamer to the unit's colors during ceremonies held April 5. The unit also presented the Purple Heart Medals and the Combat Medics Badges.

Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Wounded warriors from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, and the healers who cared for them were honored at a ceremony April 5.

In addition to honoring individual soldiers for the heroism, the "Gunners" battalion was recognized for its service during Operation Iraqi Freedom with a Presidential Unit Citation.

With the battalion assembled in front of its headquarters building, a former palace of Uday Hussein, Col. Peter R. Mansoor, 1st Brigade Combat Team

commander, 1st Armored Division presented 16 Purple Heart Medals, nine Combat Medical Badges and aided Lt. Col. William S. Rabena, the battalion's commander, with attaching the Presidential Unit Citation to the battalion colors.

Established during the Revolutionary War by General George Washington, the Purple Heart Medal recognizes Soldiers who sustained injuries during combat operations. Soldiers of 2/3 FA received wounds from a variety of sources ranging from Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), mortar attacks, and gunfire while patrolling the Aadamehiya district of Baghdad.

Three of the Purple Heart Medals presented were awarded posthumously.

For every soldier wounded, there's a medic who patches them up and gets the soldier back on the front lines.

The CMB was established at the end of World War II to recognize the field medics who served alongside and care for their infantrymen comrades on the battlefield.

The events of the day provided a rare opportunity for the members of 2/3 FA to recognize current and past heroes. In addition to honoring present-day Soldiers for their bravery, the battalion was recognized for its service during World War II.

The battalion added the "Luxembourg" battle streamer to its colors for its accurate fire and Soldiers' heroism during the battle of Bastogne.

The Gunners helped halt the German's advance into the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. The battalion's precise fires prevented the German's advance into Luxembourg and allowed greatly outnumbered infantrymen to hold their ground against the onslaught.

"Supported by outstandingly responsive and accurate fire of its artillery battalion, this widely dispersed force stopped every attack for 6 days until its surrounded infantry were ordered to fight their way back to them," Rabena said quoting the orders awarding the battalion 2/3 FA a Presidential Unit Citation. "Firing over 3,000 rounds per day for 6 days, the actions of the 3rd Field Artillery Battalion are of special note."

With the order of "Present Arms," the battalion colors were lowered and Mansoor and Rabena attached the Luxembourg streamer to the battalion colors.

"To the awardees today and to those from our history, your nation is grateful, and I am honored to serve on this battlefield with you," Mansoor said. "Thank you, continue mission. Ready First."

The Old Ironsides Report April 8, 2004

NEWS...

U.S. Hits Mosque Compound; 40 Said Killed

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - U.S. Marines in a fierce battle for this Sunni Muslim stronghold fired rockets that destroyed part of a wall surrounding a mosque compound filled with worshippers Wednesday, and witnesses said as many as 40 people were killed. Shiite-inspired violence spread to key cities in Iraq. The fighting in Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi, where commanders confirmed 12 Marines were killed late Tuesday, was part of an intensified uprising involving both Sunni and Shiites that now stretched from Kirkuk in the north to the far south. It was the heaviest fighting since Baghdad fell a year ago this week.

CIA: al-Qaida-Linked Tape Likely Real

WASHINGTON (AP) - An audiotape from a shadowy terrorist linked to al-Qaida is "probably authentic," marking the first time Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has made a taped public statement, a CIA official said Wednesday. The 33-minute audiotape appeared Tuesday on a Web site known for distributing militant Islamic messages. The speaker introduced himself as al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian believed to be running a terrorist network that stretches from Europe to Central Asia.

Convicted Sept. 11 Suspect Leaves Prison

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) - The only person convicted in the Sept. 11 attacks was freed by a court Wednesday, pending the outcome of his retrial on charges of aiding the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included three of the suicide pilots. Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, smiled broadly as he left the Hamburg prison where he had been held since November 2001. He walked past reporters without comment before his friends and lawyer whisked him away in a car to an unknown location.

Murder Charge Dropped in C-Section Case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The woman accused of murdering one of her twins by failing to undergo a timely Caesarean section pleaded guilty Wednesday to two counts of child endangerment. Melissa Ann Rowland had been charged with murder for failing to follow doctors' advice to undergo the procedure, which they said was necessary to save the life of her twins. Under a plea bargain, the murder charge was dropped.

Thought for the day...

Loyalty

When, in 1783, George Washington resigned, at the height of his power, as commander of the Continental Army, a group of officers plotted to march on Congress and install him as a military-backed dictator.

Washington squashed the would-be rebellion, famously producing from his pocket a pair of glasses. "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles," he declared, "for I have not only grown gray but almost blind in the service to my country."

In politics...

Candidate Urges People to 'Vote Naked'

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- You might say Ken Hechler would like to see voters streaking to the polls. Hechler's new slogan to get people to register and vote: "Vote Naked!"

The 89-year-old candidate for West Virginia secretary of state made the suggestion in an advertisement in the April 1 edition of Graffiti, a Charleston-based monthly tabloid.

The ad is the last in a series of four in which Hechler, a liberal Democrat who previously served as secretary of state from 1985 to 2001, pokes fun at himself and his campaign.

The first ad, in January, portrayed Hechler on a large motorcycle. In February, the ad featured a photograph of Hechler delivering a 2002 commencement address - in song - to Fairmont State College graduates.

In March it was a picture of Hechler dressed as a SWAT commando and carrying a fly swatter, threatening to swat apathetic people who don't vote.

Hechler, who was a congressman from 1959 to 1977, said Monday he made the ads "to demonstrate that I can speak the language of young people, because too many political consultants tell candidates that kids don't pay any attention to them."

The primary is May 11.

Candidate to Stay in Race Despite Photos

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) -- A candidate for the Texas House rejected calls to withdraw from the race after photos of him in women's clothing began circulating.

Sam Walls, 64, said he will not give in to "blackmail" from opponents who are trying to use "very old, personal information" to force him out of the race.

"Now my opponent is using the private information in an attempt to intimate that I am a homosexual, which I am not," Walls said in a statement Monday.

Walls, a Republican, is competing in an April 13 primary runoff against real estate broker Rob Orr.

Orr political consultant Lee Woods denied involvement. He said Orr's campaign staff learned of the photos and alerted Republican leaders.

As a leading businessman and former party chairman, Walls once seemed the favorite to win. But GOP leaders urged him to withdraw when the pictures surfaced last week in two communities near Fort Worth.

The photos were apparently obtained by a company that repossessed a mobile home registered to Walls, according to court records.

He said his family had "dealt with" the issue, and he apologized to supporters for any embarrassment caused by "a small part of my personal past."

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Today in history...

April 8, 563:B.C. GAUTAMA BUDDHA IS BORN

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On this day, Buddhists celebrate the commemoration of the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, thought to have lived in India from 563 B.C. to 483 B.C. Actually, the Buddhist tradition that celebrates his birthday on April 8 originally placed his birth in the 11th century B.C., and it was not until the modern era that scholars determined that he was more likely born in the sixth century B.C., and possibly in May rather than April.

According to the *Tripitaka*, which is recognized by scholars as the earliest existing record of the Buddha's life and discourses, Gautama Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha, the son of the king of the Sakya people. The kingdom of the Sakyas was situated on the borders of present-day Nepal and India. Siddhartha's family was of the Gautama clan. His mother, Queen Mahamaya, gave birth to him in the park of Lumbini, in what is now southern Nepal. A pillar placed there in commemoration of the event by an Indian emperor in the third century B.C. still stands.

At his birth, it was predicted that the prince would either become a great world monarch or a Buddha--a supremely enlightened teacher. The Brahmins told his father, King Suddhodana, that Siddhartha would become a ruler if he were kept isolated from the outside world. The king took pains to shelter his son from misery and anything else that might influence him toward the religious life. Siddhartha was brought up in great luxury, and he married and fathered a son. At age 29, he decided to see more of the world and began excursions off the palace grounds in his chariot. In successive trips, he saw an old man, a sick man, and a corpse, and since he had been protected from the miseries of aging, sickness, and death, his charioteer had to explain what they were. Finally, Siddhartha saw a monk, and, impressed with the man's peaceful demeanor, he decided to go into the world to discover how the man could be so serene in the midst of such suffering.

Siddhartha secretly left the palace and became a wandering ascetic. He traveled south, where the centers of learning were, and studied meditation under the teachers Alara Kalama and Udraka Ramaputra. He soon mastered their systems, reaching high states of mystical realization, but was unsatisfied and went out again in search of nirvana, the highest level of enlightenment. For nearly six years, he undertook fasting and other austerities, but these techniques proved ineffectual and he abandoned them. After regaining his strength, he seated himself under a pipal tree at what is now Bodh Gaya in west-central India and promised not to rise until he had attained the supreme enlightenment. After fighting off Mara, an evil spirit who tempted him with worldly comforts and desires, Siddhartha reached enlightenment, becoming a Buddha at the age of 35.

The Gautama Buddha then traveled to the deer park near Benares, India, where he gave his first sermon and outlined the basic doctrines of Buddhism. According to Buddhism, there are "four noble truths": (1) existence is suffering; (2) this suffering is caused by human craving; (3) there is a cessation of the suffering, which is nirvana; and (4) nirvana can be achieved, in this or future lives, though the "eightfold path" of right views, right resolve, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

For the rest of his life, the Buddha taught and gathered disciples to his *sangha*, or community of monks. He died at age 80, telling his monks to continue working for their spiritual liberation by following his teachings. Buddhism eventually spread from India to Central and Southeast Asia, China, Korea, Japan, and, in the 20th century, to the West. Today, there are an estimated 350 million people in 100 nations who adhere to Buddhist beliefs and practices.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT

**THE DIVISION RETENTION OFFICE WILL PROVIDE RETENTION
SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS REDEPLOYING THROUGH KUWAIT.**

**SFC NAGLE WILL BE LOCATED AT CP KUWAIT
FROM 6 APRIL 2004 UNTIL MISSION COMPLETE.**

**SFC DAN NAGLE
Career Counselor
daniel.nagle1@us.army.mil**

**SEE YOUR OLD IRONSIDES
CAREER COUNSELOR
TODAY**



The Old Ironsides Report

April 8, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, APRIL 08, 2004				As of: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 8:21:41 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - SECRET WEAPONS OF THE THIRD REICH	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS
01:00	THE HOT LIST		BULL DURHAM	HEADLINE NEWS TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			
02:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
03:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 1: NASHVILLE PREDATORS @ DETROIT RED WINGS	MLB - SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS @ HOUSTON ASTROS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART THE THE LOVER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WE DID IT OUR WAY	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALLING DR. HUXTABLE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	
05:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - THE BOX	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES
05:30	NBA FASTBREAK		MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - MOM'S AWAY (PT. 2)		
06:00	NBA - GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS @ PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS	ESPNEWS	PETER JENNINGS REPORTING - JESUS AND PAUL - THE WORD AND THE WITNESS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR
06:30		ESPNEWS			
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
08:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE LIFE OF A CAVE MAN		
09:00		SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - DANIEL DERONDA (PT. 1)		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN
09:15				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WE DID IT OUR WAY		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE OWL OF ATHENS	PAULA ZAHN NOW
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EVERY WOMAN - CONNIE STEVENS/ ELISA SALILNAS/ LILLIAN VERNON	HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - ARNOLD BETRAYS IGGY/ HELGA AND NANNY	
11:00	PBR BULL RIDING - NILE BULL RIDERS INVITATIONAL	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	NIGHTLINE
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - AND HE DOES HIS OWN STUNTS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS
11:45		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART THE THE LOVER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALLING DR. HUXTABLE	HEADLINE NEWS	
12:52		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	PACIFIC REPORT	60 MINUTES II
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		ESPNEWS	
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS	
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT	
14:00	NFL EUROPE - AMSTERDAM ADMIRALS @ FRANKFURT GALAXY	HEADLINE NEWS	PETER JENNINGS REPORTING - JESUS AND PAUL - THE WORD AND THE WITNESS	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE PHOBE'S WEDDING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE JOEY SPEAKS FRENCH	
14:55				REEL TIME	
15:00		TODAY			GOOD MORNING AMERICA
15:05				THE BACHELOR (TV14):	
16:30			EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE LIFE OF A CAVE MAN		
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE OWL OF ATHENS	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - DANIEL DERONDA (PT. 1)	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT	
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - ARNOLD BETRAYS IGGY/ HELGA AND NANNY		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING
18:00	BEYOND THE GLORY	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW
18:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - AND HE DOES HIS OWN STUNTS	EVERY WOMAN - CONNIE STEVENS/ ELISA SALILNAS/ LILLIAN VERNON	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - THE TEMPLE OF ELIZA		
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	
20:00	NBA FASTBREAK	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART THE THE LOVER	DRAGONHEART	FOX NEWS LIVE
20:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CALLING DR. HUXTABLE		
21:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 1: DALLAS STARS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE PHOBE'S WEDDING	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES II
21:30		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE JOEY SPEAKS FRENCH			
21:45				A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	
21:55		REEL TIME			
22:00			PETER JENNINGS REPORTING - JESUS AND PAUL - THE WORD AND THE WITNESS		FOX NEWS LIVE
22:05		THE BACHELOR (TV14):			
23:00	THE HOT LIST				HEADLINE NEWS
23:30	THE HOT LIST				INSIDE POLITICS